

# Youth Educator Grant Program

The North Central Region SARE (NCR-SARE) recognizes that youth programs are a way to introduce new and exciting farming and ranching options to youth, families, and community members. Youth Educator grants support projects by youth educators that encourage youth to try sustainable practices and explore sustainable agriculture as a viable career option.

**YOUTH EDUCATOR GRANTS** are competitive grants for educators to provide programming on sustainable agriculture for youth. \$6,000 maximum.

NCR-SARE can provide grant applications, reports from other projects, lists of funded projects, or other sustainable agriculture information.

Before writing a grant proposal, determine a clear project goal and explore previous research. It often helps to contact NCR-SARE, local agriculture groups, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and/or Extension

educators to share ideas and invite participation.

To receive more information about the NCR-SARE Youth Educator Grant Programs' proposal processes and timelines, contact the NCR-SARE office. Follow the application process carefully. Visit the NCR-SARE website at: [www.northcentral.sare.org](http://www.northcentral.sare.org) or call 612-626-3113 for resources to help you write your proposal.

In addition to the Youth Educator Program, NCR-SARE offers awards

PHOTO COURTESY OF MARIE FLANAGAN



With support from an NCR-SARE Youth Educator grant, Alana Reynolds worked with the Boys and Girls Club to grow a sustainable garden with youth in Springfield, Illinois.

for several other competitive grant programs, including:

- Farmer Rancher
- Graduate Student
- Professional Development
- Research and Education
- Partnership



PHOTO COURTESY OF RACHEL LEVI

EarthDance Farm in Ferguson, Missouri has received SARE support for a variety of sustainable farming and community-building initiatives, including their Junior Farm Crew project, which offers a 10-week summer jobs program focusing on sustainable agriculture.



NORTH CENTRAL  
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Sustainable Agriculture  
Research & Education

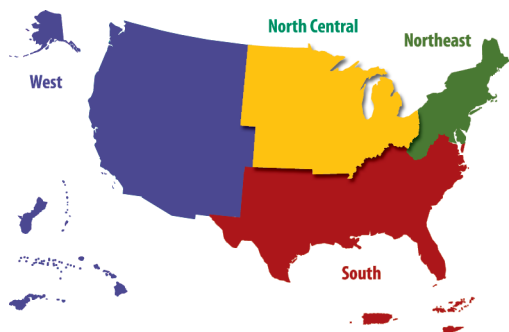
[www.northcentral.sare.org](http://www.northcentral.sare.org)

# About NCR-SARE

The North Central Region-Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education program (NCR-SARE) promotes and supports sustainable agriculture, with grants as the primary tool for accomplishing the mission. These grants are offered annually to farmers, researchers, educators, and other people in the agricultural community.

Since 1988, NCR-SARE has awarded more than \$50 million worth of competitive grants to help advance farming systems that are profitable, environmentally sound, and good for communities.

The USDA-funded Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education program was authorized by the 1985 Farm Bill and was first funded in 1988. SARE operates through four regional offices as well as a national office. The North Central Region serves Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.



The term “sustainable agriculture” means an integrated system of plant and animal production practices having a site-specific application that will, over the long-term:

- satisfy human food and fiber needs
- enhance environmental quality and the natural resource base upon which the agriculture economy depends
- make the most efficient use of nonrenewable resources and on-farm resources and integrate, where appropriate, natural biological cycles and controls
- sustain the economic viability of farm operations
- enhance the quality of life for farmers and society as a whole

For example, a sustainable agriculture dairy might use some of the following practices:

- Management-intensive Grazing (MiG) to improve pastures, increase herd health, and use the animals to distribute manure rather than machinery. MiG involves dividing pastures into smaller paddocks and moving animals to fresh grass every day or so.
- Glass bottles to increase profits and reduce packaging waste. Milk in glass bottles commands a better price, allowing farmers to make a better living. Glass is reusable and recyclable.
- Sell locally and use direct marketing. Selling the milk in local stores and directly to consumers at farmers’ markets provides the community with a very fresh product and allows farmers to receive more for milk than if sold as a bulk product.

PHOTO COURTESY OF STEVE SUTERA



With support from NCR-SARE, students in Tyndall, South Dakota learned about the benefits of cover crops, how to grow cover crops, and how to evaluate their usefulness for grazing alternatives.

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**For more information on this program,  
or to be added to our contact list, contact:**

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